

news from ישראל

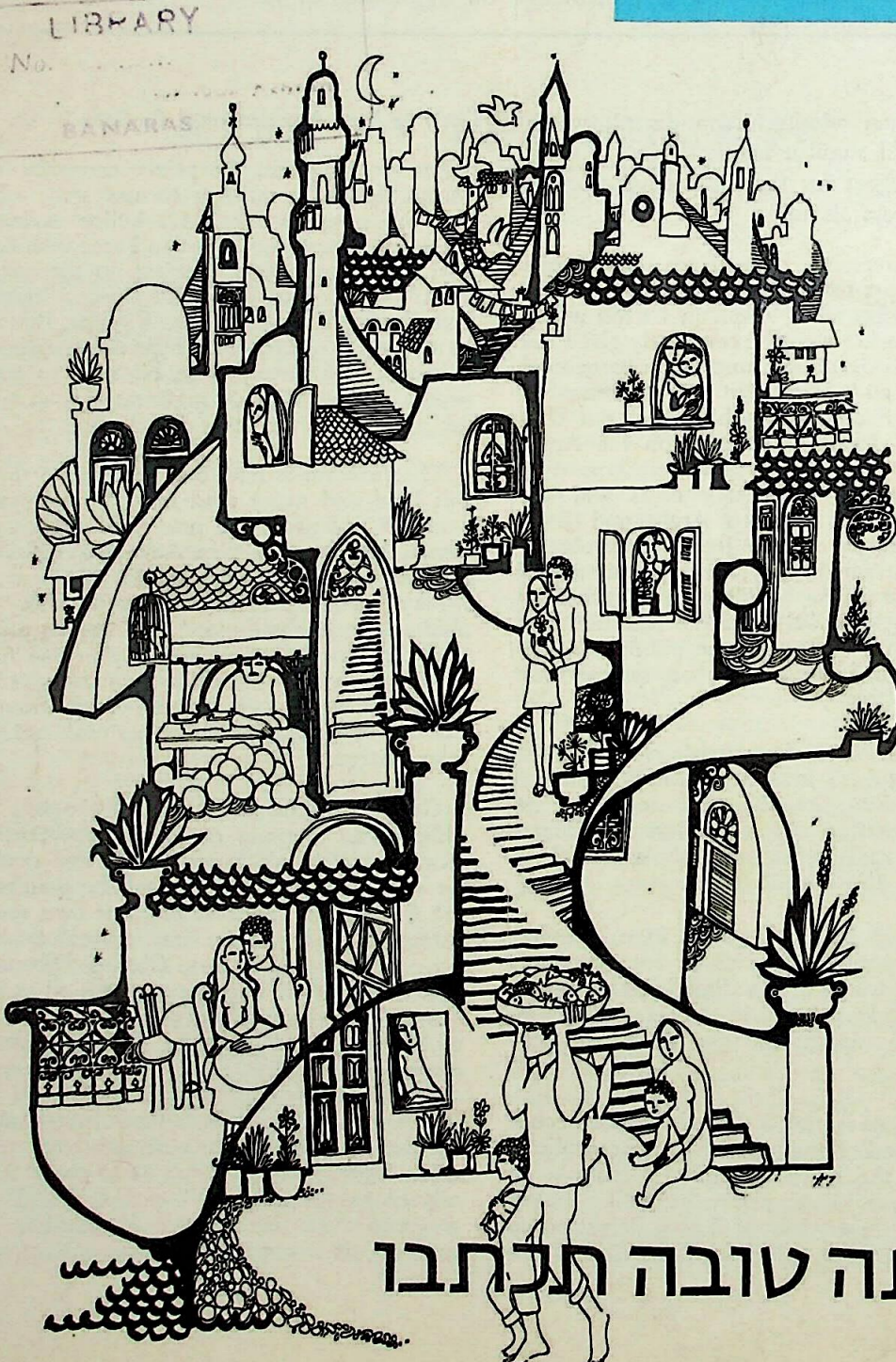


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לשנה טובה תכתבו

***“... there is no real connection between
the energy crisis and the Middle East conflict
between Arabs and Jews ...”***

From the article “Arab Oil Threats Need Calm U.S. Response” by Habort Rowen, economic editor of ‘Washington Post’, published on September 2, 1973.

“If the Nixon administration doesn’t watch out, it will stumble needlessly into making Israel the scapegoat for the prospective shortage of oil in the years ahead.

Increasing American dependence on Middle East oil and hopes that Saudi Arabian production can be stepped up from 9 million barrels a day to 20 million barrels a day, have clearly given the Arab states a powerful new weapon in bargaining with their oil customers. But this Government should not let Saudi Arabia blackmail the U.S. into a sudden change of posture on the Arab-Israeli conflict. The fact is that there is no real connection between the energy crisis and the Middle East conflict between Arabs and Jews. As assistant secretary of state Joseph Sisco observed, these “constitute in fact two separate sets of problems each of which should be viewed primarily in its own context”. But the Arab countries acting for themselves and using the public relations power of their American oil company partners are turning on the heat.

King Faisal of Saudi Arabia publicly responded to Sisco in a July 5 interview with Washington Post correspondent Jim Hoagland in which he said that if American support of Israel continues as it is, the Saudis would find it “difficult” to cooperate with the United States.

Hoagland said Faisal’s remarks were intended to underscore suggestions made by his petroleum minister, Sheik Uamani, that Saudi Arabia might be compelled to keep its oil in the ground because of rising Arab resentment over America’s pro-Israel policy.

But how serious is such a threat? Nothing could be more confused or confusing than the complicated politics of the oil-rich Arabian Peninsula — Persian Gulf area. Thus, prince Saud El Faisal of the Saudi oil ministry admitted to a Beirut editor last week that cutting off oil to the U.S. was un-

likely to hurt America until the late 1970s.

But the king and the prince according to the Beirut report are willing to use some of their huge oil revenues for a 1.2 billion dollars programme to rearm the Egyptian Force with Kuwait, Abu Dhabi and Qatar putting up the rest. The threat conveyed to Hoagland thus, is that if the U.S. doesn’t change its Israeli policy, it won’t get all the oil it wants. The refinement suggested in Beirut is that money from oil sales to the U.S. would be devoted to strengthening Arab arms for the ultimate victory over Israel.

The problem is how best to react to threats of this kind and many read into the designation of James E. Akins as the new U.S. Ambassador to Saudi Arabia a shift in American political and military support for Israel. In “foreign affairs” for April, Akins said that because of U.S. “vulnerability” the Arabs threat “to use oil as a political weapon must be taken seriously”. The first and proper response should be a massive effort to develop new energy sources — oil from shale, the use of abundant low-sulfur coal, atomic and solar energy.

Gov. John Love, the head of the new Energy Office, told a group of Washington Post editors recently: “I don’t think there’s any doubt that we would be in a better bargaining position (with the Saudis) if we developed our own sources of energy”. Looking at the situation realistically, both Love and his oil expert, Charles Dibona doubt that the U.S. will ever get as much oil as it might like to have out of Saudi Arabia. “I find imports of 25 to 35 billion dollars (projected for 1980) impossible to accept”. Love said “there are sound economic reasons for the Saudi to say oil is better in the ground apart from what Faisal says about Zionism... For many reasons we have to take a closer look at what we can do to make it to their advantage (to export oil to U.S.) and we need a great sense of urgency in finding different sources”. It is clear to Dibona and other Middle

East watchers that with or without Israel there would be a Middle East oil problem. And in fact, as Dibona points out, without Israel it might be a much less stable area than it is.

The "sound economic reasons" for Saudi's reluctance to increase oil production relate to the problems of what an economy still in a near-feudal state can do with all of its oil revenue. And like other big producing countries, the Saudis recognize that their reserves are not limitless.

As the Wall Street Journal observed in a perceptive editorial Aug. 21 "the idea that to crush Israel, they (the Arab Nations) would ignore their economic interests or would turn charitable if Israel were sacrificed strikes us as a view tinged with romanticism which has so often fogged the Western view of the Middle East.

In all probability, much of the Saudi Arabian rhetoric is intended to satisfy radical and military pressures internally and from other Arab states. . ."

EYES ON THE FIGLEAF

Reprinted from 'THE WALL STREET JOURNAL', 21 August 1973.

"WITH the voluminous talk of the "Energy Crisis" and the eternal tension in the Middle East, a great deal of attention has been focused on the possibility that the U.S. may have to back away from its support of Israel because of its need for Arab oil. We often wonder whether the West isn't more obsessed with Israel than are the Arabs.

Some Arab nations have long made rhetoric about oil and Israel, of course, and the current concern arises because Saudi Arabia has started to join in. Lobbying for a more pro-Arab U.S. policy by Mobil and Standard Oil of California, two of the partners in Saudi Arabia's main oil consortium, apparently results from something King Faisal said to their executives, but we wonder just what the king said, and what he meant by it. Similar, well-publicized remarks by his oil minister, Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani, seemed on close examination to peter out into remarkably vague and mild statements. We wonder whether the whole issue is being kept in perspective.

Take, for example, the "Energy Crisis", which in fact is America's adjustment to becoming a larger-scale importer of oil like other industrial nations, Saudi Arabia, which sits on some 28 per cent of the world's proven oil reserves, is, of course, a key factor in meeting future world demand. And the United States will need some Middle Eastern oil to meet its increasing demands. But even 10 years from now, about half of American needs will be met domestically, and nearly half of the rest from elsewhere in the Western Hemisphere. Some of the remaining 25 to 30 per cent will come from non-Arab lands

such as Iran. Up to now, for instance, our largest supplier from the Eastern Hemisphere has been Nigeria.

As far as the Arab World is concerned, a renewed war with Israel would indeed endanger the flow of Persian Gulf oil. But this possibility seems to have blinded American opinion to the even more serious Middle East trouble spots that border directly on the oil fields. As an immediate source of an oil crisis, the Arab-Israeli conflict ranks somewhere below Kurdish nationalism, the Iraqi-Kuwait confrontation over the islands of Babiyan and Warba, the Iraqi-Iranian dispute over the Shatt Al Arab waterway, the Saudi tension with Abu Dhabi over the Buraimi Oasis, and the ethnic rebellion in the Dhofar Province of Oman. Arab politics might not even be as monolithic on Israel as many in the West seem to think. In spite of King Faisal's fear of the Jews, the Saudis have not forgotten that the 1967 war forced Egypt to withdraw its expeditionary force from the Yemen, from which it occasionally dropped gas bombs on Saudi border villages.

Rhetoric about Israel, in fact, often seems to be a "figleaf", as one Middle East bureaucrat puts it, for more pressing economic objectives. Saudi reluctance to increase oil production has its real origin in problems of absorbing oil revenues in a near-feudal economy. Yet the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies says the answer favoured by the Saudis and other Arabs is "a dream of transforming themselves from mere reservoirs into industrialized states, exploiting a combination of surplus capital and cheap energy in order to process oil and other goods for the world market." This dream needs cooperation

from America, both as an outlet for investment money and for help in creating a local petrochemical industry: the IISS remarks that industrialization depends on "assured export markets" for oil products and other manufactures."

While Saudi Arabia may suffer pressure from more militant Arab lands, the militants themselves have their own economic interests. We hear reports that Iraq's oil boycott plan for instance, would give Iraq an increased share of the market. Libya has nationalized American properties ostensibly over Israel, but it has nationalized British properties ostensibly over the Persian Gulf Islands of Abu Musa, Greater Tunb and Lesser Tunb. It recently put production limits on Standard Oil of California despite California Standard's pro-Arab lobbying, suggesting that the real targets of the campaign are the oil companies that have not yet agreed to Libya's economic demands.

Egypt's President, Anwar Sadat, saluted one of Libya's nationalizations in a militant speech about beginning the battle against American interests in the Arab World. Two weeks before, he was inviting Exxon to explore for oil under a 30-year contract. Two weeks later, he was soliciting American bids for construction of a \$300 million Suez-Mediterranean pipeline.

The Arabs, no doubt, are tough customers to deal with, as are the Norwegians, the Ecuadorians, and the Alaskans, and almost anybody else who sits on oil. There may be serious troubles ahead if the Arabs decide to foresake their development plans and sit on the oil instead. But the idea that in crushing Israel, they would ignore their economic interests, or would turn charitable if Israel were sacrificed, strikes us as a view tinged with the romanticism which has so often fogged the Western view of the Middle East."

VISITORS

Switzerland would like to help

Swiss Foreign Minister Pierre Graber said in Jerusalem on 10 September that Switzerland would be glad, if and when the time came, to play whatever modest role it could in making a peace agreement in the Middle East possible.

Switzerland is well aware of Israel's sincere desire for peace, the Swiss Foreign Minister told Knesset (Parliament) Speaker Yisrael Yeshayahu in his call at the Knesset.

It was Mr. Graber's second visit to Israel. He had been here first in 1966, when he attended the Knesset dedication in his capacity as President du Conseil National (Speaker of the Swiss Upper House).

Mr. Graber held a 2¼-hour working session with Mr. Eban — the first of two such sessions. This was preceded by the traditional visits to Yad Vashem and Beit Hanassi,

where Mr. Graber extended his felicitations to President Ephraim Katzir.

Mayor Teddy Kollek was Mr. Graber's host at lunch at Jerusalem City Hall. Mr. Kollek said that Jerusalem can learn from the experience of Switzerland, "where small groups preserve and develop their culture, their theatre and literature."

Mr. Graber and his wife also visited the Zurich Garden on Mount Zion. The garden had been donated by the citizens and Municipality of Zurich.

After the City Hall luncheon Mr. Graber toured the holy places. Mr. Eban hosted a dinner for the distinguished visitors at the King David Hotel.

Mrs. Graber visited a Wizo institution, accompanied by Mrs. Shoshana Eban and Mrs. Yohanan Merez.

7th REHOVOT CONFERENCE

on economic growth in developing countries

The Seventh Rehovot Conference, devoted to Economic Growth in Developing Countries, was opened on 5 September by Mr. Abba Eban, Foreign Minister of Israel, in the presence of 140 delegates, including 17 cabinet ministers, from 50 countries.

"The targets of the Development Decade have not been met", said Mr. Eban. Although 90 per cent of the human race now live under their own sovereign flags — a spectacle of liberation never witnessed before in history — the swift accession of freedom has not been accompanied by a parallel growth of economic and social welfare. Although the fate of colonialism is sealed, its heritage weighs heavily on the shoulders of new nations. Mr. Eban went on: "Long years of neglect, the purposeful denial of education, the monopoly of managerial responsibility and the export of raw materials without the development of local manufacturing skills — above all the total absence of an indigenous scientific tradition — all these stand between the new nations and their due inheritance of progress".

In their disappointment, the developing countries hoped that the scientific community might provide some of the answers. And Israel introduced the Rehovot Conferences to serve as a bridge between the scientists and the statesmen and administrators. Perhaps the experts would develop solutions at the Conference — they would at least define and classify issues.

Prime Minister Golda Meir sent a message to the Conference, which was read by Mr. Eban, in which she assured the delegates that Israel would continue to do her best to "help those wronged by history".

"We in Israel", declared Mrs. Meir, "have always held that it is the duty of those more fortunate nations, who for various historical and other reasons have enjoyed the benefits of science and

technology, to assist less fortunate nations who are now seeking ways to improve the lives of their citizens".

Thanking Israel on behalf of the delegates for organizing the Rehovot Conference, H.E. Mr. Mohamed Diawara, Minister of Planning of the Ivory Coast, noted that planning was not enough. It had to be backed by tenacity, willpower, hard work and the support of the people. That was why the developing countries looked with such admiration to Israel — she made plans, and converted them into reality by fortitude and hard work.

ISRAEL NOT DETERRED BY ENEMIES

"Israel is not deterred by her enemies, and will continue to maintain her cooperative projects with all states who find such cooperation advantageous."

This was announced at the closing session of the week-long Seventh Rehovot Conference by Foreign Minister Abba Eban. Mr. Eban, speaking at the Wix Auditorium of the Weizmann Institute of Science, said: "We are not deaf to the rancour and invective which degrade too many sectors of international life. I know the pressures exerted by Israel's adversaries on Israel's friends. But we shall not be intimidated by rhetorical violence to the point of losing sight of larger visions. In the long run, the destiny and fortune of developing states will be determined — not by polemics which divide them — but by the human solidarities which should bind them together in common action and counsel".

He said that Israel would continue to bring scientists and statesmen together in the Rehovot Conference, the next of which is to take place in two years time.

ISRAEL:

another name for TENACITY

By Patil Puttappa M.Sc. (Calif.), L.L.B., M.P.

(Translated by the author from his original article published in his weekly newsmagazine, PRAPANCHA — The World — in its independence issue dated 19 August, 1973).

"India achieved independence a year earlier than Israel. Yet Israel has forged ahead in many respects, and that is a lesson even for India. Ask not the aged, ask the experienced, the adage, indeed, must have come after the Israelis.

Israel is another name for tenacity.

For one who wants to know, she has a good deal of old history. To know Israel, one has to go to the very roots of civilization. They are one of the most ancient peoples of the world. They could be likened to a mighty tree which has taken deep roots. It cannot be uprooted even by a violent tornado.

Throughout their long history, the Israelis have suffered injustice and aggression, and yet have survived. A nation or a people will not survive on mere numerical strength. Israelis have suffered untold miseries and have died in large numbers. But nowhere in the world you come across another people who have been persecuted at every step as these heroic people.

Howsoever inhuman, the cruelty and aggression perpetrated on these people, they have kept alive that indomitable Israeli spirit. It is the blood of their blood, the breath of their breath, and the life of their life. Looked at from any angle they are a wonderful people.

The fact, indeed, must be true that God teaches vigilance to those who are faced with danger. Or else, how could these people survive in the midst of hostile Arabs who want to wreak venge-

ance even on a flimsy pretext. 120 million Arabs, surrounding a mere three million Israelis, are constantly holding threats to annihilate them completely. It is a tremendous pressure on these people. But their energy is irrepressible, their determination indomitable, and their organization incomparable. Like the Phoenix bird, they have risen from the very fire that burnt them to ashes. If one looks at the immensity of crimes committed against them, they should not have survived. But, it seems as though, they are made of an indestructible substance.

They have fought for every inch of their territory. They have paid very dearly to gain their territory, and to preserve their freedom. It is said that eternal vigilance is the price of liberty. One need not go far to search for an instance to explain that precious thought. It is enough if one points to the Israelis. They are a living example of eternal vigilance.

That a tiny nation of only three million people — men, women, and children all put together — should withstand the superior numbers and the enmity of the Arabs and hold their head high, speaks volumes about their amazing organization.

Israelis have told the world with bell, book and candle that it is well-nigh impossible to suppress and hold back a people who know that there is a price to be paid for their country and that they are willing to pay it.

An uninviting land has been made fruitful and prosperous by the sweat and labours of the brave

Israelis. They have, so to say, squeezed the sands to get their water and have built-up a rich and secure agricultural base for their vigorous economic endeavours. Their Kibbutz have proved extremely successful. It is no mean achievement that Israel is acclaimed as the most prosperous nation in Asia, next only to Japan.

Israeli people are first in agriculture, industry and in the defence of their country. They do not have a big standing army in their country. There is absolutely no need of maintaining a separate army, where every man and woman is a soldier. Every citizen of that country, no matter what his avocation is, has been given full military training. Within twentyfour hours of a siren announcing a threat to their freedom and the integrity of their nation, the entire people would be up in arms and keep themselves ready for battle.

ISRAEL:

as I saw it



By Prof. R. N. SINHA

F.R.C.S., (Patna)

Prof. R. N. Sinha (left) of the Rajendranagar Hospital, Patna and President of the Asian Pacific Congress with Dr. Ben-Hur (Israel), General Secretary.

There is not much that India could learn from big nations. They have very little to offer to build up the sinews of the people of India. But, surely, there is much that India can learn with profit from a small nation like Israel.

How to live in the midst of danger, how to secure agricultural prosperity, how to build-up a prosperous industry, how to achieve self-sufficiency, how to ginger-up the morale of the people — these are some of the problems agitating India. If there is any country in the world that can teach these virtues, it is only Israel and no one else.

India today is overwhelmed by her troubles and tribulations. To gird up her loins she can take a leaf from Israel. That tiny powerful midget of a nation can teach India in a big way. In this hour of our need we should salute the little master."

Following excerpts are from Prof. Sinha's talks before the Press Club and the Rotary Club of Patna.

In 1971, at Melbourne at the International Conference of Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery, I was given the assignment to preside over the 3rd Asian Pacific Congress of Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery at Israel in June 1973.

Since then I was looking forward to visit Israel, not only for it being a new Country but for a special reason i.e. that the rebirth of this country was almost at the same time in 1948, as ours — a year later after we got our independence. What little I saw, took my breath away. Though I went with a critical mind and from what I had read about it, I half expected the country to be like an army garrison, teeming with soldiers and full of military hardware. But throughout my stay, I never saw a soldier except in the Lod airport near Tel Aviv, which is now well guarded after the unfortunate incident sometime back. Otherwise the whole country appeared to be most peaceful. It is difficult to imagine for us, how a country born with so much hostility and hemmed all round by none too friendly countries, just by sheer guts, and determination could build such a progressive and affluent country out of barren rocks and deserts. It is a tribute to human ingenuity, patriotism and dedication.

During my brief stay of about two weeks, I met many doctors, teachers, lawyers, students and journalists there and invariably I was impressed with their pride and sense of involvement

(Continued on page 13)

Kibbutzim (collective settlements), traditionally the backbone of agriculture, showed a record growth in industrial production last year; IL.825 million (about \$200 million) compared with IL.600 million the year before.

According to Dan Karmon, Kibbutz Industries Association Coordinator, kibbutz industries have been expanding at a rate of 23% annually during the past few years. The number of kibbutz factories grew to 232 last year with

the addition of 26 new plants during 1972 alone. Mr. Karmon reported that "kibbutz after kibbutz is going into industry, and many kibbutzim are currently searching for the type of industry that would suit them best." In all, 170

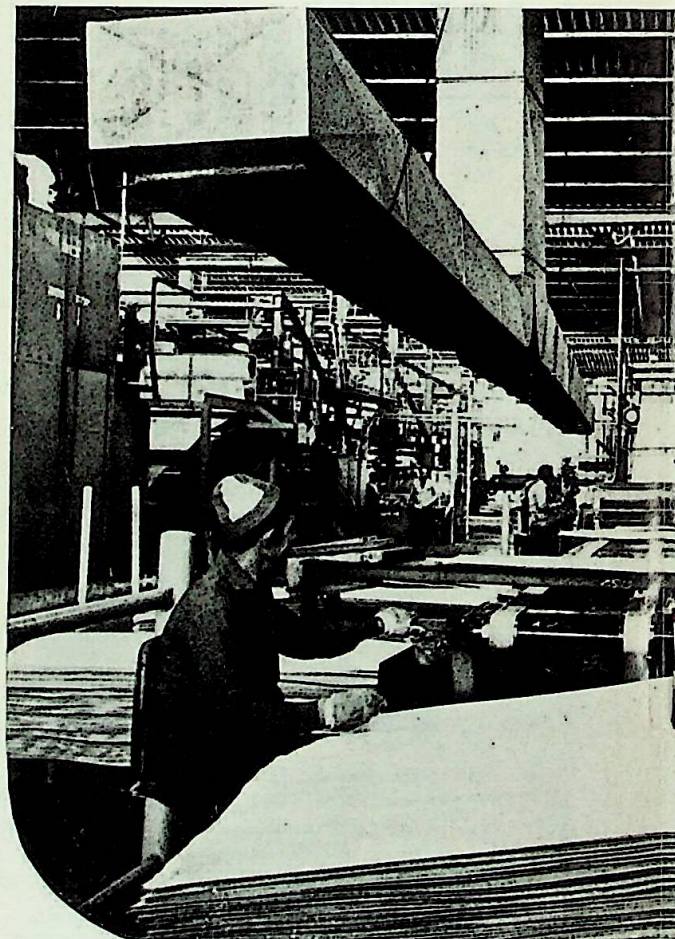
kibbutz industri

Recent development of industry in kibbutzim has surprised even insiders. A decade ago only a handful of kibbutzim considered it more than a secondary activity, which could help to provide employment for older members or women, or to bridge over slack seasons in agricultural work, but which must be kept in due bounds in order not to upset the community's social balance and way of life.

Today the attitude is almost the opposite. Industrialisation of the kibbutzim is proceeding apace, and it is not only welcomed, but actively promoted. In a growing number of settlements industry already exceeds agriculture as a source of income. And the protagonists of this movement consider kibbutzim most suitable for manufacturing enterprises.

A private capitalist may deliberate whether it is worth while to invest in industry, but for kibbutzim industrialisation is a must — says Dan Carmon, a Canadian-born member of Urim, who heads the Kibbutz Industries Association. Population in the kibbutzim is growing, while agriculture is becoming less and less profitable. And to remain profitable, it must steadily reduce costs, i.e. produce with less labour, he says.

The advance of agricultural technology is indeed remarkable, but it largely depends on application of more and more equipment, which diminishes the number of jobs, Mr. Carmon points out. Even with rising agricultural yields, work days are set free which must find an alternative productive use. This can be achieved by and



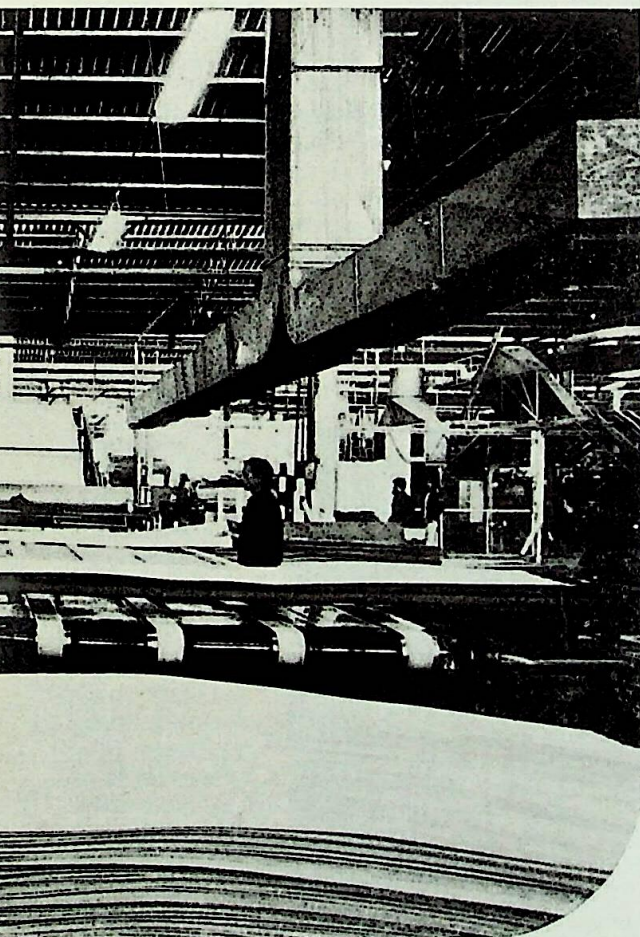
Interior of the plywood la

kibbutzim now have industrial plants and in some as much as 80% or 90% of their income is derived from industry. The average kibbutz, however, still depends for about half its income on industry, with other half coming from agriculture.

Kibbutz industries expect to produce IL.1,100 million worth of goods during this year. Last year saw a considerable increase in the work force in kibbutz industries. About 1,650 more workers were added, a rise of about 18%. Half of the

new workers are kibbutz members and half are employees from the outside. In all, there are 5,350 hired workers in kibbutz industries, over half of them working in 11 plants. 73 kibbutz plants employ only kibbutz members.

es forging ahead



factory at Kibbutz Afikim.

large only in manufacturing. "We may or may not like it, but we must pay the price of our own success," he says.

In a way, the story is not new. What is now happening in the kibbutzim is the urbanization process which has been going on all over the world for generations. But it is proceeding in a controlled way, as befits planned and organized societies like kibbutzim, and is therefore making headway both more dramatically and more rationally than one could have expected.

Already, only one in four kibbutzim does not have a factory worth its name. In another three to four years industry will be as much a part of kibbutz economy as a cow shed or an orchard. But the end of this decade agriculture will become — except perhaps in a few special cases — a secondary occupation.

This is expected to be achieved without adversely affecting the quality of life in the communal settlements, without disturbing their rural landscape and way of life too much.

CAN ADAPT

Should this revolution succeed, it will be little less remarkable than the original establishment of the kibbutzim by groups of idealists from the urban middle class longing for new social values and healthy manual work. The kibbutzim would thus prove that they can adapt not only to the relatively sheltered conditions of the countryside, but also

to the bustle of an industrial, world-oriented economy.

But quite apart from such considerations, the kibbutz industries are gaining in importance as a national factor. One has to bear in mind that kibbutzim — including the collective moshavim — account for only three per cent of our population. However, their share in industrial employment is already over four per cent (about 12,000 workers), in industrial sales — except for diamonds — over five per cent (IL.1,100m. — and in non-diamond industrial exports close to seven per cent (\$45m.).

Owing to the kibbutzim's highly selective approach to industries — for reasons of size, seasonal fluctuation, pollution, etc. — their share is biggest in the food, wood, and plastic branches. Last year they accounted for one-fifth of aggregate sales, and for two-fifths of the exports of the wood (furniture) industry, while for the plastic industry the respective shares were 33 and 86 per cent. Before long they will make their mark felt also in electronics, precision instruments and in educational aids.

Most impressive has been the kibbutzim's rising share in industrial investment. In 1971 it was eight per cent, last year 12, and in the current year it is expected to top IL.200m. — approximately 15 per cent. As a result, the kibbutzim's share in industrial production and export is also bound to rise in time. Moreover, this rise of in-

vestments reflects a double trend: not only the setting up of more plants and the expansion of existing ones, but also the increasing of the capital invested per employee in order to raise labour productivity. Though no information in this respect is available, it is significant that the number of employees increased 40 per cent, while the amount of annual investment soared 150 per cent — at stable prices — between 1969 and 1972, and is expected to go on rising rapidly. The greater amount of equipment per worker was probably the main factor in upping production per worker by over one third in the above period. Output per employee in the kibbutzim industries was about one quarter above the average in Israel industry last year.

SPECIAL CHARACTER

Equipment — and the investment required to finance it — is of particular importance in the kibbutz industries owing to its special character as part of the way of life of the local community, and not as a detached enterprise which can be adjusted to the changing market conditions. Even enthusiasts of industrialisation stress that "we need factories owned by kibbutzim, not kibbutzim owned by factories."

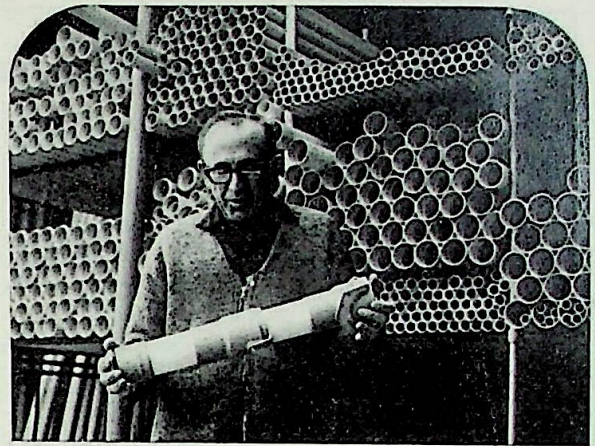
In economic terms this means that these factories must reckon with a more or less fixed supply of labour, while demand for their products may

From food to fine furniture — both Kibbutz produced.





Sprinklers for irrigation



..... and ready pipe joints from 'NAAN'.

be subject to fluctuations — may involve extra costs for storage in order to keep production on an even keel, or extra stand-by equipment for peak periods.

But the problem gets more serious if the factory operates successfully and sees chances for expanding sales and output beyond its stationary labour supply. Growth is the supreme law of modern industry — to benefit from the economies of scale and to keep abreast of technological progress. A private concern is free to expand by either hiring more workers or adding equipment. A kibbutz factory can only add equipment.

An interesting development has taken place as regards the employment of hired labour as another alternative. In the 'fifties, while most kibbutzim still hesitated to begin industrialisation, they were urged to do so in order to combine their productive knowhow with the largely unskilled labour of unemployed new immigrants. A number of major plants based largely on hired labour were established then, and as late as 1969 hired workers accounted for 57 per cent of all labour employed in the kibbutz factories. However, in 1972 the figure dropped to 45 per cent. Even in the old plants employing 100 or more, the percentage of hired hands declined from 63 to 55 per cent. A concomitant of this development has been the decline in the average size of the kibbutzim plants.

Plants employing 100 or more people are losing ground to smaller ones which can be manned solely (or almost so) by the kibbutz members. Three out of four plants surveyed last year had less than 50 employees, and one third of all the

industrial workers were employed there. Obviously such factories can be competitive only by offsetting their small personnel by modern machinery. The paradoxical result is that kibbutz industries are forced to be capital intensive, and that once having made the basic investments they must strive to make the best use of it, i.e. to push sales and to expand vigorously.

One offshoot of this development has been the creation of several financial instruments to facilitate the financing of the kibbutz industries' needs. In the current year they are expected to grant about IL.20m. long-term loans, as well as short term credits, though the kibbutzim would like double these amounts. The increasing concern about export markets must also be seen against this background.

Moreover, although initially a considerable part of the export was directed to developing countries (one half in 1971), recently the effort has been mainly in pushing sales in Europe and the U.S. where the kibbutz industries have set up a special office.

Lastly, the kibbutzim have developed various forms of cooperation — from sub-contracting to joint marketing and joint R and D schemes. These help them to overcome the small size of their industries without incurring undue overhead costs.

The full extent of their involvement in industry will come into prominence in case of another slump when private industrial activity may slow down while the kibbutz industries will continue to expand.

Computers and the Kibbutz

It was just a casual statement by Prof. Achi Brandt: Next year, he said, the new regional high school at his kibbutz, Givat Brenner (around the corner from the Weizmann Institute where he works), will offer optional courses (at the Institute) in the use and operation of computers. This casual remark demonstrates the extent of change in the kibbutz and shows how this society modernizes itself.

Achi Brandt himself represents one facet of this on-going modernization. He is one of the growing number of professionals who live in collective settlements but work "outside."

Not long ago the kibbutz was adamantly opposed to the idea of members having undue or prolonged contacts with the "contaminating" external world, with the exception, of course, of military service. For this reason, the kibbutz seldom sent its young people to university. This policy strongly contrasted with its general attitude towards education: high school — still not compulsory in Israel — has been provided for all kibbutz youngsters for the past 30 years because it was felt that a progressive democracy must be based on education.

In the beginning, of course, the kibbutz was entirely agrarian, convinced of the sanctity of agricultural labour, but today Givat Brenner contains three industrial plants: a furniture factory, an irrigation equipment plant and a cannery. Typical of the transition from a basically agrarian structure to one which emphasizes industrialization and non-agricultural sources of income is the increasing

use of computers — both to help the kibbutz determine the best possible way of distributing its resources, and to help it plan and run its industrial operations more effectively.

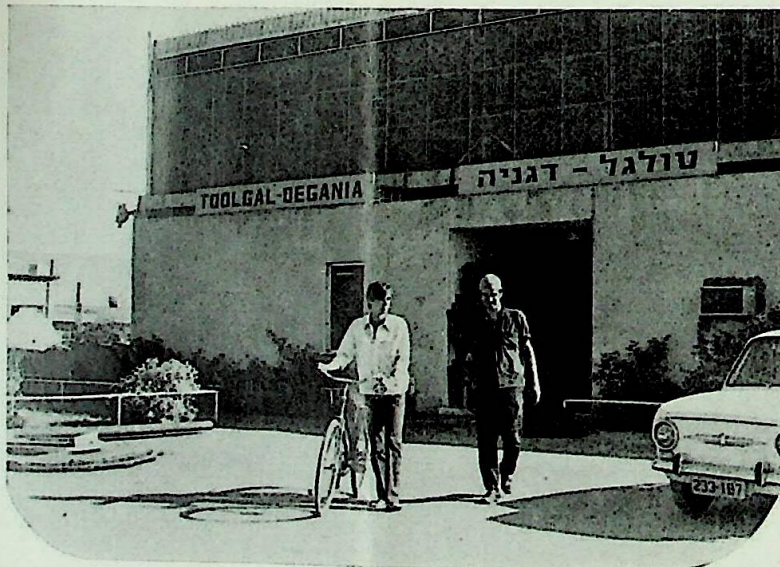
A computer-based Inter-Kibbutz Unit for Economic Guidance was created in 1961. Over half of the kibbutzim in Israel, approximately 120, now use the self-supporting centre's services. It has developed information systems for financial and cost accounting, budgeting, inventory control and invoicing, systems which are sufficiently flexible to allow individual kibbutzim to write into them their specific needs.

NO END

"There is no end to the areas in which the computer can be of assistance," Prof. Brandt says, "for example, it is being used to find out exactly how water behaves in the soil, so that instead of making costly and time-consuming experiments, we can decide on paper how to optimize our irrigation policy."

Prof. Brandt is convinced that the computer is "such a basic tool that its use should be taught in high schools. Computing is easier than many, if not most, other branches of mathematics and certainly easier for children to learn than such complicated subjects as geometry. I am sure that in the future computers will be regarded as ordinary, entirely routine tools for general allround use and will not be restricted to mathematicians or industrialists."

Degania — the first Kibbutz — has barns as well as plants.



ISRAEL: As I Saw It (contd. from page 7)

in the process of nation building, as if each one was imbued with their self-imposed task of advancing the cause of their nation. From each of them, I could gather some useful information, which I have tried to sort out and piece them together and check on what I had read before.

Two thousand eight hundred years ago prophet Amos had said *"I will restore the fortune of my people Israel, and they shall rebuild the ruined cities and inhabit them, they shall plant vineyards and drink their wine, and they shall make gardens and eat their fruit. I will plant them on their land, and they shall never again be plucked up out of the land which I have given"*.

To me, a casual visitor, it appeared that the prophecy has come true.

President Katzir, who was "At home" to us one evening, emphasised the need for quest of peace in the context of contemporary world affairs, and dwelt on the universal brotherhood of science and medicine and addressed us as fellow scientists. It fell to my lot, to reply to him, on behalf of the delegates of the Conference and I expressed our great happiness that a scientist have been elected as the President of Israel.

The achievements since 1948 is one of admirable success. From the early days of draining swamps and clearing rocky wastes, Israel has achieved several spectacular and sophisticated success. They have reclaimed big tracts of rocky and marshy deserts, have built and modernised cities, are building their own aircraft, make many of the military weapons and all its ammunition.

They have given lot of priority to 'road-building'. They have built wide concrete-built highways suitable for heavy and fast traffic on difficult terrain and their maintenance is superb.

While on the subject of traffic, I was much impressed, by a sight which I shall never forget. On a busy road intersection, in the busiest office and school going hour, I found a number of young school going children ranging from five to seven, being led by a youngster of about seven himself, carrying a white flag. There were no traffic lights at that intersection. He boldly stepped into the 'Zebra' waved his flag urging all traffic to stop. When he with his other tiny mates safely crossed over to the other side the leader again waved his flag and the traffic resumed again. I was told that no driver dare infringe the orders of those tiny leaders and one would only do it at the risk of cancellation of their driving licence for life. It is

worthwhile emulating such built-in sense of discipline and civic sense.

Since 1948, a million and a half immigrants have been received and assimilated into a society speaking Hebrew — a language which was unused outside the synagogue less than half a century ago.

Israel's greatest need is to secure right living conditions for the new immigrants. More than 50,000 immigrants arrive each year. The country is now the home to two million, seven hundred of the worlds 14 million jews.

It is the immigrants who moved into the towns and villages to fill the voids along the hostile borders. It is they who have provided country's economy.

The pioneering struggle in a harsh land has turned Jews of various nationalities, Polish, Russian, American, English, Turkish, Arab, African and Indians into Israelis. More than 500 co-operative villages "Kibbutzim", were founded by new cooperatives, most of whom had never been cultivators before. The Kibbutzim are communal or collective villages which are governed by the general assembly of all members. All property is collectively owned and work is organised on a collective basis. Members give their technical know-how and labour and in return receive housing, food, clothing and social services. There are central dining rooms, kitchens and stores, communal kindergartens, children's crèches and social and cultural centres. Individual living quarters secure personal privacy.

The Kibbutzim are primarily agricultural but more and more run sizable industrial enterprises. There are more than 200 with population ranging from below hundred to 2,000.

There are also small cooperative small holder's villages called "Moshavim", based on principles of mutual aid and equality of opportunity. Each member has a farm worked by himself and his family but produce is sold and supplies and equipment are bought, through central co-operatives. Some farm machinery is owned by the village as a whole.

The institutions of Kibbutzim and Moshavim have credited Israel as having one of the best co-operative systems in the world.

These pioneers are making the deserts bloom, planting a million trees a year in a stony parched land and providing enough water to enable atleast 70% of them to survive and bloom. They turned a dry sunbaked barren land into a green fertile grannery.

"A land of wheat and barley and vines and fig trees and pomogranates — a land of olive oil and honey" says the Bible. Much has been added including bananas, oranges, dates, avocados guavas and even mangoes in the hot Jordan valley. In the arid Negev are high ranges fantastically coloured and scooped out into vast mile long craters. The development of the Negev is one of Israel's principle objectives. Through big wide pipelines, agriculture has been established and new towns have been built to settle immigrants and promote the use of mineral deposits.

HEALTH, SOCIAL SERVICES

The state of health of the people compare favourably with Western Standards and the nutritional status is satisfactory.

Life expectancy for the Jewish population in 1969 was 69.5 for males and 73.3 for females. Mortality from tuberculosis is receding, malaria has been eradicated and venereal diseases are comparatively rare. The Ministry of Health and 'Kupat Holim', the health insurance provide co-ordinated services to new and veteran citizens alike. Immigrants enjoy free insurance for the first three months.

Social insurance is one of the important means of rendering useful, pragmatic and timely services to its citizens who need them. Old age pensions, survivors insurance, work injuries, maternity benefits, children's allowance are a few worth mentioning.

EDUCATION AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES IN ISRAEL

Education is the third largest item in the national budget, next only to defence and housing. Primary education is free and compulsory between the ages of five and fourteen. It is financed partly by the State and partly by the local authorities. After the secondary education, there is compulsory military service for 3 years for boys and 2 years for girls.

In higher education, what Israel lacks in quantity she makes up in quality. Israel's scientists and research institutions have won world wide recognition and received generous assistance from friends of Israel abroad.

Cultural activities — Israel folk-lore and dance are very popular and we were invited by the Mayor of Jerusalem one evening to a very pleasant evening of Israel folk-lore and dance.

IN BRIEF

METAL TUBE LASER DEVELOPED

A metal tube laser which is more versatile than the traditional glass tube model has been developed by physicists at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Prof. Pinhas Avivi, Associate Professor of Experimental Physics, and Prof. Felix Dothan, Associate Professor of Applied Physics, began working on the new laser in 1969. Previously, gas lasers could only be constructed with glass tubes, which were prone to breakage under stress.

A gas laser operates by sending an electric current from an anode to a cathode, which then creates an electrical discharge in the gas in the laser tube. If the laser tube is made of metal the tube will cause a short circuit, preventing the current from reaching the gas.

Profs. Dothan and Avivi solved this problem by making the discharge tube out of short sections, separated by insulating spacers. This prevents short circuits, allowing the laser to function properly.

Investigations are now under way of possible uses for the laser in textile technology, as well as other fields. Its great advantage over the earlier glass-housed models is its ability to withstand shocks and bumps, permitting it to be attached to mobile equipment.

The laser is now being produced commercially by Israel Electro-Optical Industry Ltd., of Rehovot, under license from the Yissum Research Development Company of the Hebrew University.

WEIZMANN INSTITUTE COMPUTER HELPS IRRIGATION EXPERTS TO SAVE WATER

Sixty per cent of the water normally used in irrigation has been saved in computer-aided field studies now being conducted in Northern Sinai by a team of Israeli soil and irrigation experts. This was announced by Prof. Achi Brandt, head of the Weizmann Institute's Pure Mathematics Department, who has been making use of sophisticated computer techniques in order to help achieve maximum agricultural yields with minimum use of water.

Assisted by a research student, Prof. Brandt receives information obtained from the field experiments and translates it into data which is fed into the Institute's Golem computer in order to obtain mathematical descriptions of water flow patterns in the soil.

Thus in a very short time the computer provides information which used to take investigators entire agricultural seasons to obtain.

"The fact that we are able to get information quickly," Prof. Brandt said, "enables us to come closer to our goal of optimum irrigation procedures. This, for example, involves the proper intervals between irrigation periods, as well as rates of water discharge which take into account parameters such as weather, type of soil and type of plants.

According to Prof. Brandt, the agreement between experimental and computational results supports the reliability of the mathematical approach. The multi-disciplinary team is continuing its investigation in order to develop even greater reliability and in order to apply this approach to other irrigation projects.

*To all our Jewish Friends
A Happy, Prosperous and Peaceful
New Year*

5 7 3 4

September 27, '73

—Editor

BEA-BOAC MERGER RAISES ISRAEL SERVICE

With the scheduled merger of Britain's twin national carriers, BEA (British European) and BOAC (British Overseas) into a single company on April 1, British Airways, the off-spring, will be operating a 17-flight schedule to Israel, including four eastbound flights out of Lod to the Far East.

This will be in accordance with a contract initialled by El Al and British Airways representatives a few weeks ago. It gives El Al comparable rights through London to New York (13 of the flights terminating at London), Mr. Brendon Magill, acting manager of B.A. (Israel), told aviation correspondents recently.

The BEA-BOAC schedule for this winter is set at eleven flights a week. The new spring and summer schedule of 1974 will include 13 flights by Trident II medium range jetliners. The remaining four will be carried out by bigger aircraft to include, as of March 1975 (Mr. Magill was even able to set a precise day — the 16th of the month), the famous Lockheed Tristar — a three engined jumbo. (It was production delays on the Tristar which sent Rolls Royce into receivership and almost led to the closure of the Lockheed plants.)

LUFTHANSA AND EL AL STEP UP WEEKLY FLIGHTS

El Al and Lufthansa have successfully concluded the first phase of negotiations to step up flight frequencies between the two countries. As of next summer, each of the national carriers will be flying eight times per week — instead of the present six. Lufthansa has, however, still not agreed to an El Al request to include at least one jumbo flight per week, and there are also differences to be ironed out over landing points in Germany. While it was agreed that Lufthansa would have four departures ex-Frankfurt and the four others from Munich, El Al's request for six flights out of Frankfurt and two out of Munich are still under "consideration."

A publicity promotion campaign addressed to German travellers to Israel is now being considered. It is understood that Israel has now become more attractive following revaluation of the mark. Israel, however, remains somewhat more expensive than Spain or Greece, the two top German market attractions.

200 GAZAN DOCTORS APPLY TO RETURN TO LOCAL PRACTICE

Deputy Health Minister Abdul Aziz Zuabi* said on September 3 at the dedication of a 100-bed children's hospital in Gaza that the Israeli government is now considering requests by about 200 native physicians to return from abroad and practice in the Gaza Strip.

Directed by Dr. Naim Ali Hassan, the hospital was renovated as a comprehensive pediatric facility at a cost of IL 350,000 by the military administration.

The area commander, Brig. Gen. Avraham Orli, said another hospital with 220 beds will be dedicated in December at Khan Yunis.

Israel radio and television broadcast interviews on August 25 with Harun Mahmoud, director of the Hebrew service of Jordan Television, who visited his Israeli counterparts in Jerusalem at his request some time ago. Mahmoud, a native of Umm al-Fahm in the Galilee, was in Israel to visit relatives under a tourist permit granted within the framework of the summer family reunion scheme.

WEST BANK CLASS SIZES REDUCED MORE THAN A THIRD

The Tel Aviv newspaper "Ma'ariv" published on September 5 results of a comparative survey of the school system in the West Bank prior to Israeli occupation and today. According to the findings, 1000 new classrooms have been constructed during the intervening period, following an Israeli estimation that about 2,000 of the classrooms surveyed after the 1967 war were judged unfit for use.

In the past year, 250 classrooms were added, with estimates of another 1000 during the coming five years.

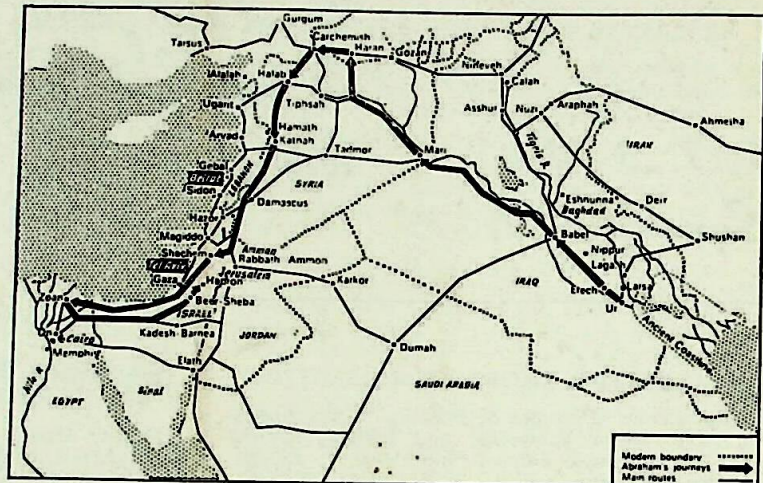
The average number of students per class has been reduced from 55 prior to the war, to 36 today, the survey said.

More than 230,000 pupils are enrolled this autumn, three-quarters of them in government schools and the rest in private or United Nations-operated institutions. The number is about 12,000 greater than last year.

THE HISTORY OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE

I THE PATRIARCHS IN THE LAND OF ISRAEL

2000 - 1800 b.c.e.



Map of Abraham's wanderings and other main routes of the ancient east

The history of the Jewish people, like the history of most nations, begins in obscurity. According to the Bible, Abraham, who is considered to be the first of the Patriarchs, originated from the town of Ur, which was in ancient Mesopotamia, a geographical area roughly covered by modern Iraq.

Ancient Mesopotamia was dotted with city states from the fourth millenium b.c.e. The systems of government varied in different periods; elective kingship gave way to hereditary monarchy. Many of the languages as well as the legal systems we know, originated in this area. The states had well developed relations and maintained orderly archives. Archaeology is supplying evidence for all of this, and many of its discoveries are adding to our understanding of stories in the Bible.

Abraham and his family migrated, at God's command according to the Bible, out of this area in a southwesternly direction into Canaan, which lay between Mesopotamia and Egypt. In the biblical account, Abraham is told that if he goes to Canaan he will be blessed and become a great nation. Later the story relates how God promised that that land would belong to his descendants. The scholarly view that accepts the historicity of the Bible story dates the migration at about 2,000 b.c.e.

The Land of Canaan — or Judea, Palestine and Israel as it has been variously known —

was on the great trade route. Abraham was the chief of a nomadic tribe wandering through what is nowadays the Negev of modern Israel, with his base at Beersheba. Although he maintained rather friendly relations with his neighbours, he was set apart from them by his rejection of their pagan religion and his belief in the One Unseen, All-powerful God.

Abraham had two sons, Ishmael and Isaac. Ishmael was the child of Hagar, Abraham's second wife, while Isaac's mother was the first wife, Sarah. According to both Jewish and Muslim tradition, Ishmael was the founder of the Arab nations. The high point of Isaac's life — and of that of Abraham — was the *Akedah* in which Abraham was commanded by God to offer Isaac as a sacrifice. At the last moment God told Abraham to desist and declared: "Now I know that you fear God."

Isaac had twin sons, Esau and Jacob, whose early life was spent in intense rivalry over the birthright and its accompanying blessing. Jacob, by a trick, prevailed and as a result had to spend many years in exile in fear of his brother's vengeance. Jacob took 4 wives who bore him twelve sons and one daughter. The sons became the Tribes of Israel (an alternative name for Jacob). Ultimately, Esau forgave his brother, who returned to live in the ancestral land.